

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

September 3, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know firsthand, Hurricane Gustav's impact has dislocated millions and left over one million families and businesses without power. As Governor Jindal has no doubt conveyed, we are in need of emergency energy assistance.

Initial estimates suggest that our constituents will be without power for time periods ranging from 10 days to 6 weeks. I request that you employ the full range of emergency response capabilities of the US Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. The addition of the Department's expert response teams and electrical generators would be invaluable at this time.

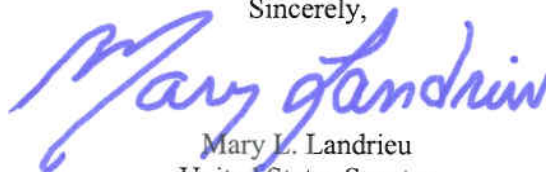
Furthermore, I ask that you release the remaining discretionary federal Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds at your disposal. Many Louisianans are ill-equipped to weather the economic effects of Hurricane Gustav. More than 800,000 Louisiana citizens are impoverished, and already struggling with high energy costs. Congress provided these LIHEAP resources for just such an emergency. Because these funds will lapse in less than 30 days, I urge their prompt release to help Louisiana's most at-risk citizens to get back on their feet.

Unfortunately, Gustav's strike has exacerbated already difficult economic conditions. Due to rising energy prices, virtually all of our current LIHEAP funds have been spent. Just two weeks ago, the State was compelled to commit \$10 million of its own resources to home energy assistance. However, those funds were enough to help only 12,700 additional families. Unfortunately, the energy needs of our citizens outstrip the State's capacity to help. At present, the fiscal 2008 Federal LIHEAP funding—which has already been consumed—helped just 45,000 Louisiana households. Gustav's landfall has greatly magnified our immediate need.

As you demonstrated in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes, Department of Energy resources and LIHEAP contingency funds can make a difference in disaster recovery. This assistance from the Federal government would be an immediate shot in the arm to Louisiana's families. We all appreciate your attention to this request.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

Cc: Secretary Samuel Bodman  
Governor Bobby Jindal